- Immediate notification would be provided to the respective High Commissions through the Foreign Ministries of arrested Pakistani/Indian nationals;
- Consular access would be provided within three months of apprehension;
- Repatriation would be done immediately after completion of sentence and nationality verification;
- A mechanism would be introduced for early repatriation, without sentencing of inadvertent crossers;
- A similar mechanism would be established for early release, without sentencing of those under 16 apprehended by either side.

Following the visit, Pakistan has provided consular access to approximately 100 civilian prisoners and 650 fishermen in January and February 2005. The process of release and repatriation would follow confirmation of nationality and completion of sentence.

* Thus meaningful progress has been achieved and the Government intends to continue with the present process of building confidence, enhancing cooperation and dialogue in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence. Government have made it clear that the process is critically dependent on the fulfillment of January 6, 2004 commitment of President Musharraf not to permit any territory under Pakistan's Control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

**General amnesty to Indians Overstaying in Oman**

354. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Oman declared general amnesty for overstayal people and if so, the number of such Keralites who are willing to return from that country;

(b) whether the Oman Government constituted a High power committee to look into the affairs of non-payment of wages of labourers;

(c) whether the Embassy of India has made any arrangements to bring the grievances of Indian labourers to the notice of such committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government would consider to take initiative for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMAD): (a) No.

(b) Our Embassy in Oman has been informed during meetings at various levels about the constitution of a high level committee by Oman to look into cases of non payment of wages and other issues pertaining to foreign workers in Oman.

(c) and (d) The Embassy of India in Oman regularly brings all issues pertaining to Indian workers in Oman to the attention of Government in Oman. These matters are also taken up with the authorities in Oman during Ministerial and high-level official visits.

**No-Negotiation policy with kidnappers**

355. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as part of no-nonsense policy on hostage and kidnapping situations, Government had announced, long time back, that it is formlating a policy of "no negotiations" with kidnappers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No two hostage of kidnapping situations are entirely similar, and different responses may be required depending upon specific circumstances.

Government of India believes in not compromising with hostage takers and kidnappers. However, while adhering to this principle, the objective of the Government is to ensure the safety and well being of all Indian citizens, whether in India or abroad. In such situations, Government makes all efforts possible to secure the early and safe release of Indian nationals who may have been kidnapped or taken hostage.